(c) whether Government are also aware that there is shortage of staff in the dispensary, if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No, Sir. The dispensary is functioning in 3 adjacent DDA Flats which are in good condition.

(b) The beneficiaries of this dispensary are attached with Laxmi Nagar and Shahdara dispensaries for Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic treatment.

(c) At present, there is no shortage of staff.

Science and Technology for Rural Development

2169. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Science and Technology is being used for rural development by the Government;

(b) if so, what are the details of Science and Technology inputs for rural developments;

(c) whether under Science and Technology programmes for rural development, General Expanded Programme for Immunisation (EPI) and Universal Immunisation Programme (UPI) have been successful;

(d) if so what are the details of achievements in E.I.P and U.I.P. statewise in the whole country; and

(e) how do the Government propose to make the facilities available to the beneficiaries at their door step under these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir

Several Departments and Agencies of the Government are engaged in transferring Science and Technology inputs for rural development. These include the National Technology Missions initiated by the Prime Minister recently.

(c) and (d) General Expanded Programme of Immunization has been identified as one of the most cost-effective interventions to reduce morbidity and mortality. The Programme has been able to achieve the target coverage at majority of States. Universal Immunization Programme is aimed at reducing the mortality and morbidity among children and pregnant mothers with targets of coverage of 85% infants and 100 pregnant woman by 1990. 304 Districts have been covered. The remaining Districts will be covered during the balance period available.

(e) The facilities are made available at hospitals, dispensaries, Primary Health Centres, Sub-Centres and at village level. It is not proposed to provide these services on door to door basis because of the difficulties in transporting and maintaining the cold containers.

Pending cases in Central Administrative Tribunal

2170. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any fact finding committee to investigate the causes of pendency of cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would consider desirability of amendment of service rules to avoid recurrence of

service cases specially with regard to promotion and seniority etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government amends service rules including those relating to promotion and seniority whenever and wherever necessary.

Eighth Antarctica Expedition

2171. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would undertake eighth Indian expedition to Antarctica;

(b) if so, what are the details of exploration and studies to be conducted by Indian team in its eighth expedition;

(c) whether Government has exchange of knowledge and know how with the teams of otrer countries leading to expedition to Antarctica for mutual benefits; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such exchange of knowledge and know how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scientific work proposed to be carried out during the eighth expedition is of considerable importance in the light of the signing of mineral regime on Antarctica. Studies include geological, geophysical, geomagnetic, meteorological, upper atmospheric, ozone depletion and oceanographic aspects. Construction the second station at Maitri will also be undertaken.

(c) and (d) The data and information collected during the expeditions are fully used by the various participating institutions in the country. These are also exchanged with the other countries which are the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties. The knowledge and experience gained during the previous expeditions have enabled India to contribute substantially in all the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty including the Minerals Regime which was adopted on 2nd June, 1988.

Use of the Delicate Strands of Algae

2172. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the use of the delicate strands of Algae commonly found floating in ponds and lakes in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether it is in the notice of Government that US Scientists are working on a certain group of Algae which produces large amounts of lipids which can be extracted and used to make diesel oil and petrol;

(d) if so, whether any experiments are being conducted in India to tap the potential of Algae as a source of diesel and petrol; and

(e) if so, whether and the stage at which the matter stands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Some research work was done at the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI)